



# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

*The Newsletter of the National Christian Council in Japan*

ISSN 0021-4353

Number 739

PROCESSED

Fall 2005 Spring 2006

## "Hope for Peace" GTU LIBRARY



### Editorial

Now a little over 60 years since W.W.II, Japan is changing and moving full speed ahead becoming a country which is capable of initiating a war.

For the first time since World War II has ended, Japan now has a legal framework to respond to and initiate a military attack because, last June, the Japanese Diet approved three laws related to military emergencies. These laws require ordinary citizens to cooperate in their working place and local areas to support any U.S. military actions and the SDF (Self-Defense Force) operations as a matter of highest priority when the prime minister judges that it is an urgent situation (e.g. in which a military attack on Japan can be expected.) If we do not follow these orders, we can be punished which could include possible imprisonment.

### CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Korean Eco-Feminist Theologian                | 2  |
| Hansen's Disease                              | 3  |
| Letter from NCCJ to NCCP                      | 4  |
| Atomic Bomb Museum Website                    | 5  |
| Letter of Appeal                              | 5  |
| NCCJ Mission Conference Declaration           | 6  |
| Religious Education & Interreligious Dialogue | 7  |
| WCC General Assembly                          | 8  |
| Snippets of the NCCJ Mission Conference       | 8  |
| Yasukuni Shrine                               | 9  |
| NCCJ General Assembly                         | 10 |
| Letter on NCCJ's General Assembly             | 11 |
| Military Base at Henoko Bay                   | 12 |
| Philippine Church Leaders                     | 13 |
| Activists Killings in the Philippines         | 14 |
| Hokkaido Artist: Midori Shibata               | 15 |
| As Such A Time as This                        | 16 |
| NCCJ Letter to Pres. Arroyo                   | 17 |
| NCCJ Calendar Highlights 2005-2006            | 18 |
| NCCJ Committees                               | 18 |

In addition, the Japanese government is in the process of changing the basic education law and the constitution, particularly targeting Article 9, at the moment. The ruling LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) has mapped out a draft of its amendment proposal last November, when it celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. There are many points for discussion on constitutional revisions, but it is Article 9, the "war-denouncing clause" that bears the most upon the future course of Japan. Thanks to the Peace Constitution, Japan did not have a war and no one has been killed in the battlefield over the past 60 plus years. Many Christians in Japan oppose the change of the peace constitution. One of the many reasons is that Japanese Christians experienced persecution during the WWII under the Emperor system; a system which brought oppression to other neighboring Asian countries as well as Japan. As Christians, we do not want to experience rising militarism again.

We are standing at the crossroads of two choices, whether we choose life and create a culture of peace or we choose the road of destruction and spread a chain of violence and war. God has told us that "thou shall not kill" and Jesus said when he was about to be arrested, to one of his disciples who had drawn his sword, "put away your sword, for all who take the sword will die by the sword."

Blessings on 2006 as we work together for peace and justice in this world.

Rev. Toshi Yamamoto,  
General Secretary of NCCJ

## Let All Forms of Life Flourish, says Korean Eco-Feminist Theologian

A Korean eco-feminist theologian, internationally known for her inclusive perspective of God, shared her vision of ecumenism during her three-week lecture tour of some major Japanese cities in January. It was her second visit to the country since a brief visit to Hiroshima in August 2000.

In her lecture meeting at St. Barnabas Church in Tokyo co-sponsored by NCCJ's Study Group for Theology and Mission, the Women's Committee and the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ), Dr. Hyun Kyung (Chung), said the vision is to "let all forms of life flourish."

Dr. Hyun Kyung, who dropped her father's family name but teaches under the name of Chung as associate professor of ecumenical theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York, shared about the five encounters which became turning points in her life: with poor children, women in a male-dominated church structure, "others", the earth, and life, referring to the corresponding theologies of liberation theology, feminist theology, "syncretic" theology in the context of Asia, and life-centered theology that embraces the whole universe. "The ultimate goal of ecumenical theology is to let all forms of life flourish," she concluded. "We should shift our focus in theology and "theopraxis" from the problem of non-believers to the problem of dehumanized "non-persons", particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America," she said.

Dr. Hyun Kyung became internationally known especially after her keynote speech at the 7th Assembly of World Theologians in Canberra, Australia, in 1991. In her recent



*"Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung, the keynote speaker for the 49th Women's Conference at Amagi Sanso, Jan. 27-29, 2006, with conference co-chairs Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto and Kathryn Treece. The theme of the conference was "Come, Holy Spirit".*

series of four melodrama books on ecofeminist theology, including a Korean best-seller Goddess-Spell According to Hyun Kyung, A Letter From Goddess to the Earth and Keeping Women Warriors of the World, she claims to be a "salimist", one who advocates the Korean concept of salim meaning "life-giving". She has attracted wide public attention in Korean television and national news.

"In order to give life, you would need to be filled with the joy of being let live," she said. "And you would need to live a life that makes others feel like living a salimist life."

"When I came to Japan, my heart was broken for my Japanese sisters who have studied feminist theology", said Hyun Kyung in her lecture meeting organized by a feminist theologians' group at the Japan Biblical Seminary in Tokyo on January 14. "They study so hard to get doctoral degrees but they can never be professors. And feminist theology is not a requirement course (in Japan)."

"So, I want to encourage my Japanese sisters: the world is wide. Don't just look at seminaries, universities and churches (as places) where you can do theology. The whole world is your parish!" she added.

During the lecture, she led an exercise-like "prayer" that she had learned from a Filipino sister, everyone rubbing their hands doing it faster and harder to receive the "life energy of God" and share it with others.

In her sermon at Tokyo Union Church, Hyun Kyung, who was brought up to see Japan an enemy, said that she can forgive Japan for its colonization of Korea from 1910 to 1945, but that she cannot forget Japanese colonialism, reported the Ecumenical News International (ENI) on February 3. She said, "We can forgive our enemies because we live in the fullness of life, which is why Jesus came to this world."

Following her visit on January 17 to Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, where spirits of the war dead, including class-A war criminals of the Second World War, are enshrined and remains of the wartime Japanese military are exhibited, she described it as "a place of death worship". "The Yasukuni Shrine shows what the world should not be; it has the nerve to display the most deadly combination of death, lies, and power," she said emphatically. "I felt so sick. I don't think that glorifying death and self-sacrifice [in war] is a message of Jesus Christ." She added that the reason for a museum should be repentance." A series of visits by Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to the war shrine since August

*(Cont'd on p. 3, col.1)*

## Probe Reveals Stored Fetal Specimens from Hansen's Disease Patients

A civic inter-faith group addressing the issue of preserved fetal samples obtained from women with Hansen's disease and stored in government HD sanatoriums, held a public meeting at Nicola Barre Hall in Yotsuya on March 17th, 2006. The members include Junko Matsuura, head of the NCCJ's Women's Committee, Sister Shizue Hirota of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Steering Committee, Satchiya Namba, UCCJ (Kyodan) member and representatives of regional HD Citizen's Associations.

The Asahi Shimbun reported on January 27, 2005, that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare had received the results of a survey which found that 114 specimens of aborted fetuses and newborn infants obtained from women with Hansen's disease were being held in storage in 6 public institutions, including the National Hansen's Disease Sanatorium (Leprosarium). Until the law enforcing isolation of Hansen's Disease patients was abrogated in 1990, it was in fact illegal for a female patient to give birth. During the compensation hearings, female witnesses spoke of their experience of forced abortion. The survey estimated over

3,000 such cases.

In addition, over 2000 specimens derived from autopsies after the death of HD patients were found. Most of the specimens were made between 1924 and 1956. Under the law at that time, abortions were allowed on fetuses up to 8 months in utero.

Male patients were forced to undergo tubal ligations and women, hysterectomies or if pregnant, forced abortions. In the fewer cases where women actually gave birth, the infants were eliminated by staff.

In December, 2005, the Ministry of Labor and Welfare ordered the 6 institutions to conduct appropriate funeral services for families desiring them for the victims of the former discriminatory, extermination-oriented policies which ignored human rights and belittled the lives taken. Slowly, redress is becoming reality. At the meeting, three women addressed the gathering briefly but eloquently, sharing their experiences: one of them was presented with the urn containing the ashes of her child, the result of her supporters long efforts to find and identify those whose little bodies had sat on the shelves with no acknowledgement that they had lived or that their lives had worth. (Reported by Sister Jean Michalec, m.m.)

### Korean Theologian *(Continued from p. 2)*

2001 has caused controversies within Japan and with its neighboring countries, including Korea and China, over implications regarding Japan's war history (see p.11)

In an interview with JCAN following her visit to Japan's feudal capital of Kamakura, she said that her ultimate questions about Japan in her research are how the great violence and beauty of the Japanese can co-exist, and how the citizens' movement in Japan, which should start with women and young people, could be possible. In this interview shortly before leaving Japan on January 29, she said that when she comes to Japan again, she would hold a seminar on the "respect and pride" that Japanese women want. "If Japanese women keep their love, energy and money and spend them to change the world rather than on Louis Vuitton, Gucci, or Chanel products, the world can be changed," she said.

She spoke of the importance of diversity referring to her visit to a multicultural community of residents, including Koreans in Kawasaki (a city near Yokohama), created by Rev. Lee In-ha, a Korean pastor-emeritus of the KCCJ and former moderator of the NCCJ. "I was very impressed by Rev. Lee Inha who started a nursery center there envisioning an inclusive society for foreigners and Japanese," said Hyun Kyung. She told the Japanese, "If you want to be happier, you need to accept diversity, which makes your immune system strong." (H.Y)





## NCC 日本キリスト教連議会

〒102-0071 東京都千代田区麹町2-13-34 銀座 03-3244-7570  
TEL 03-3232-2273 (總務) FAX 03-3234-6496 E-mail: [info@ncc.or.jp](mailto:info@ncc.or.jp)  
<http://www.ncc.or.jp>

\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*  
\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN JAPAN  
2000 CHRISTIAN CENTER 3F, 2-13 Kurokawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 112-0021 JAPAN  
Telephone: 03-3232-0771 Fax: 03-3234-6496 <http://www.ncc.or.jp>

Mr. SUZUKI Reiko  
Moderator  
Rev. TOSHIMASA Yamamoto  
General Secretary

Letter from NCCJ to NCCP

November 4, 2005

### Statement of Concern on the Unrestrained Killings of Activists in the Philippines "and justice will produce lasting peace and security" (Isaiah 32:17)

The National Christian Council in Japan (NCC-J) strongly condemns the rise of political killings in the Philippines which has been targeting church leaders, trade union leaders, human rights defenders and members of progressive organizations. NCC-J has been working with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCC-P) for the last 20 years to bring about reconciliation and peace through organizing mutual visitations and regular consultations. We have become increasingly concerned to see that security forces, including police, soldiers, and local civilian militias, are mobilized to make way for industrial and real estate development projects against the interests of the people and the environment. As Japanese citizens, we feel compelled to register this concern with the government of the Philippines and Japan because Japan's ODA have been playing a major role for such development projects.

Our concern has deepened in the last few years as we observe that the Philippine Government appears to proactively sanction extrajudicial killings and brutality by security forces in the name of the 'war against terror', in which victimization of civilians is only regarded as incidental/bound to happen' (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita). During the Pastoral Ecumenical Delegation Visit organized by the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia in July 2005, our delegates from NCC-J met the victims and their families and heard the heartrending testimonies firsthand. The large-scale human rights violations were observed by the delegation including police and military intimidation, illegal detention, torture, forced recruitment, and forced evacuation.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has gone still further by tagging our longtime partner churches and organizations as an 'Enemy of the State' along with other legal organizations. At the same time, we began to hear news of killings of church leaders, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and trade union leaders allegedly by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU). This year alone, the number of victims is almost 100. Among the victims are pastors and church workers who were known to us. They were committed Christians who were accompanying people threatened by mining plans or mass discharges.

The circumstantial evidence is enough to establish that these killings are perpetrated with impunity under the government policy of 'war against terror' in response to the pressed needs of the Philippine government to stage 'security' for industrial peace under huge pressures from the international economical powers including Japan, to put the finances right and provide favorable environment for foreign companies.

Know that security cannot be achieved by military force. It is justice that produces lasting peace and security (Isaiah 32:17).

We call upon the Philippine government for the following:

- To restore justice to the victims of violence by carrying out immediate and impartial investigations into these extrajudicial executions. Make results of these investigations public, and bring those found responsible to justice. Give protection and assistance to the families of victims.
- To take immediate and comprehensive steps to eradicate the culture of impunity from security forces. Disband the CAFGUs.
- To promote agrarian and land rights reform.
- To repeal the 1995 Mining Act.
- To publicly admit the wrong labeling of human rights defenders as "terrorists" and apologize to those listed as "Enemies of State".
- To change policies for resolving the "insurgency". Engage in dialogue to resolve conflict through peaceful means.

National Christian Council in Japan  
Reiko Suzuki (Moderator)  
Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto (General Secretary)  
Rev. Hidetoshi Watanabe (Chair of Philippine Committee)

## NCC Declaration Atomic Bomb Museum.org Web Site

AtomicBombMuseum.org provides a new online educational resource for those with an interest in the historical record of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

"We hope that AtomicBombMuseum.org will serve as a springboard for people who personally want to discover the lessons of those unique historical events that took place in August of 1945," said David L. Swain, chief editor of the web site, and co-translator of the first full accounting of the 1945 atomic bombings, Hiroshima and Nagasaki: the physical, medical, and social effects of the atomic bombings (Iwanami Shoten, Publishers, Tokyo, and Basic Books, New York, 1981) and also of its abridged version, The Impact of the A-bomb: Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945-85 (Iwanami Shoten, Publishers, Tokyo, 1985). David Swain is also a former United Methodist missionary to Japan now retired in North Carolina and has been active with the peace movement for many years in Japan and the U.S.

AtomicBombMuseum.org, a collaborative effort of many contributors in the U.S.A. and Japan, is a project of

Global Peacemakers Association, a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting the culture of peace.

In addition to David L. Swain, the web team includes a computer specialist in North Carolina's Research Triangle as well as Steven Leeper, executive director of Global Peacemakers Association and also the US Representative of Mayors for Peace, a registered U.N. non-governmental organization with members in over 1,000 cities representing 112 countries in all regions worldwide.

The web site also features the personal testimonies of many A-bomb survivors from a book titled Hiroshima in Memoriam and Today: A Testament of Peace for the World (2000), compiled by A-bomb survivor Hitoshi Takayama and edited by Swain.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Public Relations

AtomicBombMuseum.org

Email: [info@AtomicBombMuseum.org](mailto:info@AtomicBombMuseum.org)



### NCC 日本キリスト教協議会

〒102-0083 東京都千代田区麹町二丁目13-34 電話 03-3212-1573  
 fax 03-3212-1574 (本部) fax 03-3212-0465 [www.jcc.or.jp](http://www.jcc.or.jp)  
<http://www.jcc.or.jp/kyoiku/index.html>

〒102-0083 東京都千代田区麹町二丁目13-34  
 fax 03-3212-1574 (本部)

Mr. SUZUKI Ryoko  
Ms. Yamamoto  
Rev. Yamamoto Toshimasa  
General Secretary

To Whom It May Concern  
From: Toshi Yamamoto/ National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)  
Date: Dec 9, 2005

#### An Urgent Appeal:

Please Release Four Members of Human Right Activists Taken in Iraq! We learned that four members of Christian Peacemaker Teams were taken on November 26, in Baghdad, Iraq. We firmly believe that they are not spies, nor do they work in the service of any government. They are people who have dedicated their lives to fighting against war and have clearly and publicly opposed the invasion and occupation of Iraq. They are people of faith, but they are not missionaries. They have deep respect for the Islamic faith and for the right of Iraqis to self-determination.

We appeal to those holding these activists to release them unharmed so that they may continue their vital work as witnesses and peacemakers.

Sincerely Yours,

Toshimasa Yamamoto  
NCC-Japan

## NCCJ Mission Conference Declaration

November 24-26, 2005

"Compassion for life enables us to work for Christ's peace - Solidarity through prayer and actions during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the defeat of Imperial Japan"

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." (John 14:27)

In 1998, a NCC Mission Conference was held in memory of the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Imperial Japan. In the last seven years, the 9.11 terrorist attack happened, the "War against Terror" was waged against Afghanistan and Iraq, and the Japanese Self-Defense Force was sent to Iraq. We recognize the fact that we could not stop this war. We also note that the Japanese government is forcing the Hinomaru flag and Kimigayo national anthem more rigorously, and that the government is pushing for undesirable amendments to the Constitution and the Fundamentals of Education Act.

At the NCC Mission Conference 2005, we had the following input: "The Ecumenical Movement and its Mission" by Dr. Ahn Jae Woong (former CCA General Secretary), "60 years after the War" from the perspective of an Okinawan" by Rev. Choshu Yohena (Vice-chair of the Okinawa Christian Conference), "The Struggle against Violence - to prevent our becoming aggressors again - from Henoko, Okinawa" by Rev. Natsume Taira, and "A Report on the Japan-Korea Kids' Peace Conference in Hiroshima" by Rev. Aika Taira (Conference Director). Then we shared reflections and each one's experiences of work in the field through panel and group discussions. Each church presented its missionary challenges. Throughout this process, we prayed together and reflected on the future direction and vision of NCC-J, and articulated challenges facing NCC-J.

We confirmed the validity of the NCC-J Mission Declaration of 1998. In it we affirmed that compassion for 'life in suffering' should be the starting point of our missionary work. But we confess that we lacked an understanding of the pain that people were bearing in Okinawa. There, the occupation by US Military Forces still continues with the consent of the Japanese government. We will work in solidarity with the people of Henoko who have inherited the

non-violent struggle of Shoko Ahagon. We commit ourselves to struggle against violence. We commit ourselves to peace-making. It is a missionary challenge for us to listen to Jesus Christ on the Cross and break through the various barriers on the way to co-existence.

The following are three prioritized challenges requiring our urgent actions.

### 1. HENOKO

The ongoing restructuring of the US Forces aims at their renewal and strengthening for the further expansion of US hegemony in Asia. The Japanese government intends to sacrifice Okinawa again for the peace of Japan, as it did at the end of World War II and the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty. Totally neglecting the voices of Okinawans, the Japanese government is already bulldozing to construct a new military base for US Forces in Okinawa.

Troops from military bases in Okinawa

have been sent to the Korean War, the Indochina War, conflicts in the Philippines, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The US military base is a sword pointing at our Asian neighbors. To prevent our becoming an aggressor again, we regard it as an urgent challenge for us to stop construction of the new military base in Henoko, and to work towards abolishing all military bases in Japan.

### 2. CONSTITUTION

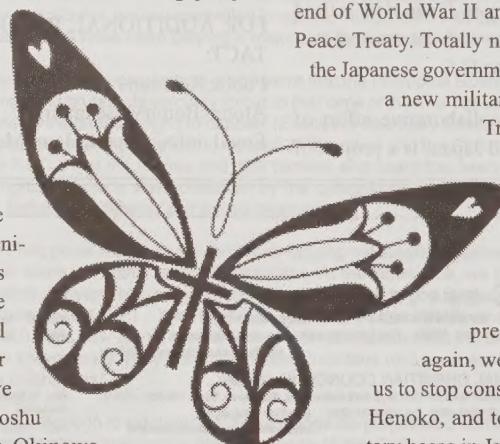
A campaign is gaining momentum to 'review' the Preamble and the Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution and to establish a new constitution. While recognizing the fact that the "Peace Constitution" has not been fully applied to Okinawa all

these years during which the mainland has enjoyed the post-war situation, we will advocate against the review and work for the full realization of the current constitution, declaring that we will not allow war nor will we cooperate for war whether on mainland Japan or in Okinawa. We resolve to never again become an aggressor to foreign neighbors.

### 3. PEACE EDUCATION (FROM TEACHING TO GROWING-TOGETHER)

A campaign is gaining momentum to mold children and youth into obedient servants of the government by coercing

(Cont'd on p. 7, col.1)



## NCC Declaration

(Continued from p. 6)

schools to fly the Hinomaru and sing Kimigayo at school events, by allowing textbooks that distort history, forcing the use of "Kokoro No Note" (notebook used in moral education), bashing gender-free education and sex education, and changing the Juvenile Act and the Fundamentals of Education Act for the worse. Such actions are leading to self-denial and violence among children. We regard it as an urgent challenge to promote peace education that helps us to develop compassion for trampled life and review our own life. We need to grow together with children and youth to become peace-makers.

We have been working to realize peace based on justice and mutual trust, begging to be forgiven for our sin of taking part in colonial rule and military invasions. But the Japanese government has been proactively supporting the hegemony of the US government and strengthening self-righteous nationalism as shown in the worship at Yasukuni Shrine and the distorted history textbook. Diplomatic relationships with neighboring countries have deteriorated more than ever before. The divisions in Northeast Asia caused by the hegemonic rule of the US are casting shadows on the relationships among churches as well. In order to work together for peace-making, we are committed to build

relationships among the churches by promoting encounters among our peoples.

Across Japan, various churches, denominations, and Christian organizations are ecumenically associating with each other and meeting missionary challenges. We believe that sharing efforts and cooperating with mutual respect is important. We commit ourselves to become a messenger of peace to the world through unity, dialogue and cooperation among Christians. We are also committed to dialogue and work with people of other faiths based on compassion for "life in suffering".

We believe that the ecumenical movement has gained importance more than ever in today's situation. Deepening ecumenical inter-exchanges, we will follow Jesus Christ who took upon himself the pain of others.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." promised Jesus. Then he said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." No, we are not afraid of the rulers of the world, because the God of love and peace, who was with Jesus, abides among us. We follow the encouragement of Jesus: "Come now; let us be on our way." (John 14:15-31)

(translated by Michinori Mano (NCCJ))

## "Religious Education and Interreligious Dialogue"

The NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions held a lecture on November 8, 2005 by Prof. Dr. Max Deeg, University of Vienna, Australia, on the theme "The Brilliant Teaching The Rise and Fall of 'Nestorianism' in Tang China Time". In the year 1625 (or 1623) the Nestorian stele from 781 was discovered in Changshan (Xiancan), the former capital of the Tang empire, Europeans learned that Christianity had already reached China in the first half of the 7th century. The stele has been the only source for the history of an early Christian community in China for almost 300 years, but at the beginning of the 20th century Nestorian documents from the same period were found in Dunhuang and elsewhere in China. These texts are of an interesting form and contents as they seem to be heavily influenced by Buddhist and Daoist thought, implying that the Nestorian Christians in China tried to adopt their religion to their cultural environment. The lecture presented an overview on the history of Nestorianism in China on the basis of Chinese original documents. Contact the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions. e-mail: [studycen@mbox.kyoto-inet.or.jp](mailto:studycen@mbox.kyoto-inet.or.jp) homepage: <http://www.japanese-religions.jp>

Contact the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions email and their website.



**"For Those Who Pray for Peace"** is a 383-page book of survivors' stories told by people associated with Hiroshima Jogakuin. Not an easy work to read, it is stirring, frightening, inspiring, all in one. Fifty-eight women and two men relate their own experiences or those of close friends. If you will send 1000 yen to help with postage and publication costs, I'll send you a copy. Also, "Songs of Bible Women" is a 2-CD set of original music by Judith May Newton and Diane Stanton-Rich. Women of the Old and New Testaments sing in a new key, with spirit and challenge. 1000 yen will bring you a set.

—Dr. Judy Newton, Hiroshima Jogakuin University, 4-1-13 Ushita Higashi, Higashi-ku, Hiroshima

732-0063 (Mayjudy3@aol.com)

## WCC General Assembly

The theme for the WCC General Assembly in Porte Alegre, Brazil held from February 14-24 was "God, in your grace, transform the world". About 4000 people attended. From Japan, there were six people who attended Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto, general secretary of National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)

Rev. Ms Hiroko Ueda, Executive Secretary for World Mission for the Kyodan ( UCCJ )

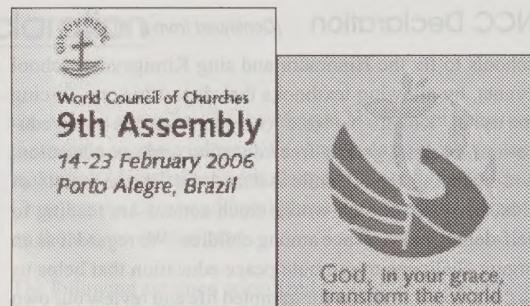
Rev. Hiroshi Omiya, Chair of the Kyodan World Mission and Corporation

Rev. Renta Nishihara, Committee on Ecumenism for the Anglican / Episcopal Church ( Seikokai ) and vice-moderator of NCCJ

Rev. Park Soo Kil, general secretary of Korea Christian Church in Japan

Rev. Makoto Watanabe, general secretary of Japan Bible Society

The WCC is the largest Christian ecumenical organization, comprised of 340 Christian denominations and churches in 120 countries, and said to represent 550 million Christians throughout the world. The U.S. Conference of



the World Council of Churches alone represents 34 Christian churches, including Orthodox, Evangelical, Lutheran and Anglican churches, and four million members throughout the country.

The Roman Catholic Church is not a member of the WCC but has worked closely with the Council in the past. Since its origins in 1948, the WCC gathers in an Assembly every seven years with each member church sending a delegate. This year was the first time the Assembly has ever been held in Latin America.

The Assembly ended with this prayer: "Transform us in the offering of ourselves so that we may be your partners in transformation to strive for the full, visible unity of the one Church of Jesus Christ, to become neighbors to all, as we await with eager longing the full revelation of your rule in the coming of a new heaven and a new earth."

## Snippets of the NCCJ Mission Conference held on November 24

Since 1879, when Okinawa was annexed to Japan, the state is not [in accordance with] the will of God," said Rev. Choshu Yohena, a Baptist pastor and the vice moderator of the Okinawa Christian Council, who spoke at the conference, "Okinawa does not need a state. The military does not protect human lives."

Rev. Natsume Taira of the United Church of Christ in Japan, a leader of an Okinawan nonviolent movement against the planned U.S. base construction near Henoko village, emphasized the significance of loving the defense facility officials while looking hard at the adversarial relationship with them through nonviolence, during his presentation based on his experience of the movement. He strongly added: "To accept military bases means to accept killing people. Could we ever say that it is not a [mission] agenda for Christians?"

The statement is entitled, "From Sympathy for Life to the Peace of Christ: Solidarity through Prayers and Action -

the 60 years since the Defeat of Japan in the (Second World) War," based on the biblical message of Jesus in John 14:27. It says, "It is our mission agenda to listen to and obey Jesus Christ on the cross and break through the various barriers that prevent us from living together." It puts a particular emphasis on nonviolent peacemaking against the postwar trend of Japan's militarization such as (protesting) protesting the planned construction of a new U.S. base near Henoko village in Okinawa. 75 percent of the U.S. military bases in Japan have been concentrated in Okinawan islands since the fierce ground battle between the United States and Japan that took more than 120,000 lives of Okinawan civilians in 1945.

"The application of the [war-renouncing] Japanese Constitution to Okinawa has been substantially limited," the statement says. "Protect Asia as your neighbor. Remove and break through barriers. Build communities of peace. And

*continued on page 9 col. 1*

## Yasukuni Shrine

To: Prime Minister, Koizumi Jun'ichiro  
 Statement of Protest Against Visits to  
 Worship at Yasukuni Shrine

We, as Christians, have acknowledged and repented for the responsibility of the sinful acts of aggressive warfare that were committed in the past by our country against other countries of Asia. It is our prayerful desire for our country to now stand firmly on the principles of peaceful non-aggression, the sovereignty of the people, and respect for basic human rights as clearly stated in the Japanese Constitution. However, Prime Minister Koizumi, you have trampled on our desires, and continued to obstinately push ahead with yearly visits to the same shrine since your first official worship at Yasukuni Shrine on August 13, 2001, after assuming the office of Prime Minister. Mr. Koizumi, we rigorously protest your visits as Prime Minister to worship at Yasukuni Shrine for the following reasons.

On September 30, 2005, the Osaka High Court passed down the judgment that the visits by Prime Minister Koizumi to worship at Yasukuni Shrine were religious acts forbidden by Article 20 of the Japanese Constitution, stating that "in spite of the strong criticisms at home and abroad, the visits to worship at the shrine have continued, giving the impression that the government is giving special support to Yasukuni Shrine, which in effect is an unconstitutional act of promoting a particular religion." We therefore sternly oppose your act of worship, which you pushed ahead with in spite of the court's clear judgment that such acts are unconstitutional.

Furthermore, by defiantly going ahead with this unconstitutional act, your actions are in violation of Article 99 of the Japanese Constitution which stipulates that "all public officials from the emperor and regents, to the officials in charge of public affairs, members of parliament and judges

### **Snippets... continued from p.8**

spare life," said Ahn Jae-Woong, former general secretary of Christian Conference in his keynote address at the conference, quoting the Scripture. He added: "Cain's lie about his killing of Abel is no different from the war of aggression that Japan made."

"Through the ecumenical movement, we should create a new cultural Renaissance," he said. "Okinawa does not have the feeling that it is 60 years since the War ended because it is still in a state of war and military occupation since 1879, when Okinawa was annexed to Japan," said Rev. Choshu Yohena, the vice moderator of the Okinawa Christian Council.

are charged with the duty of respecting and upholding the Constitution," and are thereby actions absolutely forbidden as the Prime Minister of a nation based on a constitutional form of government.

The Yasukuni Shrine was the main spiritual pillar of Japanese militarism before and during the war. Your acts of worship as Prime Minister are just the opposite of your statements that claim to "come from my feelings that we must never again start a war," and must be called nothing other than actions which beautify and affirm war. They also serve to stir up once again the type of militarism and nationalism of the past, which compelled the Japanese people to sacrifice their lives for the nation state. This can be called nothing other than a violation of the peaceful spirit of the Japanese Constitution which was established on the basis that "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

The plaintiffs in the Osaka High Court case included 116 names of the survivors of war dead from Taiwan in making the plea that "we who suffered under the Japanese colonial rule again suffered great pain when the Prime Minister went to worship at Yasukuni Shrine which was the supporting pillar of the pre-war Japanese spirit." It is in this manner that the Prime Minister's visit to worship at Yasukuni Shrine ignored the history that robbed the lives of over 20 million persons in the Asia Pacific War, and added insult to injury of those who are victims of that war. Furthermore, the Prime Minister's visit to worship at Yasukuni Shrine caused the peoples of Asia to hold a deep distrust of Japan, as well as the collapse of the bonds of reconciliation and goodwill that have been forged over many long years with the people from Asia living in Japan.

For these above reasons, we strongly protest the visit of Prime Minister Koizumi Jun'ichiro to worship at Yasukuni Shrine.

October 17, 2005

National Christian Council of Japan  
 Committee on the Yasukuni Shrine Issue  
 Rev. Suga Seiji, Chairperson



## NCCJ General Assembly Approves New Moderator, re-elects General Secretary

*"Send us, Lord – for the realization of peace and reconciliation (John 14:27)"*

The National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) has elected Rev. Isamu Koshiishi from the Anglican/Episcopal Church in Japan (NSKK) as the new moderator and re-elected Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto as the General Secretary at its 36th General Assembly held in Tokyo on March 13 and 14 with the biblical theme, "Send us, Lord–for the realization of peace and reconciliation (John 14:27)".



*The NCCJ's new moderator, Rev. Isamu Koshiishi (right), looks at the re-elected General Secretary Toshimasa Yamamoto, at the 36th General Assembly on March 13 held at Shitaya Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) in Tokyo.*

In his message during the closing worship service of the meeting, Rev. Koshiishi, a former General Secretary of the NSKK's Provincial Office in Japan, cautioned that "It is very important to seek God's will, but I think that we could tend to think that the will of the General Assembly is the will of God. What it means to deny oneself and take up one's cross can differ among individuals," he noted, referring to the words of Jesus in Mark 8:34-38. "Our standpoints can be different. But we cannot turn away from visible Church unity if we deny ourselves and take up our cross for transformation through repentance in different ways."

He shared with JCAN his personal view on the work of the NCCJ, saying, "Issues of economic justice should be more emphasized".

"We would like to follow up the work of the Gospel of reconciliation and peace and participate in the work of God's mission", the council said in its policy proposal for the 36th assembly term under the General Assembly theme, quoting the words of Jesus in John 20:21 and 14:27.

The policy proposal, which was adopted at the General Assembly, contains directions for the council's future work on ecumenical cooperation with the World Council of

Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), as well as priorities and visions on unity and dialogue among churches, overcoming violence in Northeast Asia, Japan's peace constitution, youth, women and children, budgetary and organizational reviews, and compilation of the council's 60 years of history in 2008.

"In a society filled with violence and insecurity, the Christian world is being given a glorious mission to let God's love be known, proclaim hope, and live together with the weak", the former NCCJ moderator Reiko Suzuki said in closing her report on the work of the NCCJ during the 35th assembly term, just before she was replaced by Rev. Koshiishi.

"The NCCJ has a lot of tasks. The NCCJ will have to go through many difficulties to take its steps in severe realities," she said, referring to the council's work for the past four years on opposition against the 'war on terror', reconciliation and coexistence, exchanges with other NCCs, and its own budgetary and organizational reform.

"But believing that Jesus Christ who experienced similar pain under Roman rule is leading us, and being grateful for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of life, we have humbly done our tasks. I sincerely pray that the steps that the NCCJ will take will continue under God's guidance."



*The General Assembly under new leadership.*

"The theme of the 35th General Assembly term, "Toward Peace and Reconciliation – Overcoming Violence" does not end with the end of the General Assembly term. It must be addressed continuously," said Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto, in his report on the previous assembly term.

During an evening session on March 13, six participants from Japan in the 9th Assembly of the World Council of

*continued on page 11 col. 1*



NCC 日本キリスト教団議会

7-161-13661 曼多勒緬甸的華麗漆 2-3-13-24 繪畫 (61122-2-1) 1961  
7-161-13662 曼多勒緬甸的華麗漆 2-3-13-25 繪畫 (61122-2-2) 1961

卷之三

## NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN JAPAN

Address: 10000 N. 10th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85020  
Telephone: (602) 955-4420 Fax: (602) 955-4425 E-mail: [info@aztax.com](mailto:info@aztax.com)

Dear Ecumenical friends:

Greetings in the name of Christ!

On behalf of the National Christian Council in Japan, I would like to announce that at our NCCJ 36th General Assembly, (held from March 14 to 15, 2006), the Rev. Isamu Koshiishi of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Anglican Church in Japan) was elected as the new moderator for the National Christian Council in Japan. I would also like to inform you that I was reelected as the NCCJ General Secretary for the next three years.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continuous support, prayers, encouragement, and cooperation with NCCJ. We live in a world, where people are suffering and dying due to war, terror, poverty, disease, disasters and communal conflicts. People are overwhelmed by a sense of hopelessness and helplessness, and as a result, they seem to be losing their identity and meaning of life.

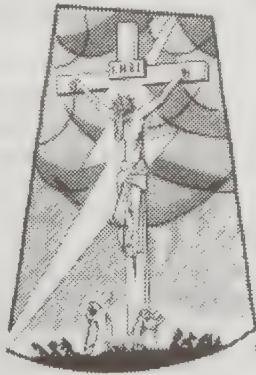
I sincerely hope that our ecumenical friendship and partnership will be meaningful for lives in today's uncertain world and bear good fruit in building up the ecumenical movement in our time.

Many blessings upon us all,

Toshimasa Yamamoto (Rev.)  
General Secretary, NCC-Japan

## **NCCJ General Assembly... *continued from p.10***

of Churches (WCC) held from 13 to 24 February, 2006 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, shared their reports, views and experiences of the global ecumenical meeting, including its history, Bible studies, focus on overcoming violence, and perspectives by minorities. Messages were given by leaders as invited guest speakers on behalf of the National Councils of Churches in Korea and the Philippines, as well as the Christian Council in Okinawa regarding their relationships with the NCCJ in the context of their history. (H.Y.)



## Call for the Withdrawal of the White Paper for the Establishment of a New Military Base at Henoko Bay

On the 26th of October it was reported that the Japanese and U.S. governments reached an agreement regarding the movement of the Futenma military base with the construction of an 1,800 meter-long runway and large-scale land reclamation at Oura-wan Bay for the construction of an aircraft parking apron. Within this joint agreement we believe the U.S. intends to continue its use of Okinawa as part of the overall US military restructuring plan, and the Japanese government is placing the desires of the U.S. ahead of the interests and safety of Okinawan citizens. However, what does the government think of their responsibility to face the fact that more than 80% of Okinawan citizens oppose the plan to move Futenma Air Station? The nation should protect its citizens, but it is ignoring the will of the Okinawan people who suffer direct harm through renewed increases in noise pollution and environmental destruction through damage to the ecosystem. A "joint agreement" between governments alone is unacceptable.

Furthermore, on the 26th of October, the government announced its intention to introduce a special measures law at the beginning of next year to transfer jurisdiction over the ocean area in question (public waters) from the Governor to the State. It is reported that this law is also intended to apply in cases of the transfer of other Japan-based U.S. Military facilities. Should this be the attitude of representatives of our country, which claims to uphold freedom and democracy, but which uses methods such as these to ignore and wrestle down the will of citizens and force through the objectives of the government? The "people of the nation" must not be sacrificed in order to buy the favour of the United States. We strongly object to this "joint agreement." We call on the government to affirm the standpoint of the people and clearly demand that the U.S. immediately withdraw the Futenma white paper.

The plan to transfer to Henoko Bay runs against the will of the Okinawan people to transfer the Futenma military base outside the prefecture. It will significantly alter



*The kanji for this graphic is "hope"*

Henoko's marine ecosystem, and will result in major noise pollution in Nago City's eastern bay areas. Furthermore, this plan will fail to substantially reduce the base burden on Okinawa and encumber the taxpayers with the bill for consolidation and transfer, which could run to hundreds of trillions of yen. Who really wants to share the load of the costs for war together with the United States?

We must all do our utmost to secure the coexistence of the people living in Okinawa, the Japanese mainland, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, and indeed the people of all other countries around the world. Military bases, however, are not for the purpose of allowing people to live, but for killing them. War is not intended to ensure people's survival, but undeniably to kill them.

We are opposed to the construction of new military facilities at Henoko under the so-called "Futenma transfer." We also strongly oppose the inclusion of the joint agreement in the intermediate report on the transformation and realignment of U.S. Bases by the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (2+2 Meeting) on the 29th of October.

We strongly protest this joint agreement and demand the following;

- 1) The withdrawal of the white paper regarding the one-sided U.S.-Japan joint agreement to construct a new military base at Henoko Bay;
- 2) The immediate unconditional return of Futenma Airbase.

Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto, General Secretary of the National Christian Council in Japan  
 Kimiko Ogasawara, Chairperson of the NCC-J Peace and Nuclear Issues Committee



## Japan is part of U.S. "Empire" globalization that killed our church leaders, says Philippine church leaders

Japan is part of the U.S. Empire's globalization of industrial development projects backing its war on terror that has resulted in a series of recent political killings of Philippine church leaders for the interests of the elite, said church leaders from the Philippines on October 8.

In his presentation on the current human rights situation in the Philippines at an open meeting with the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) in Tokyo, Bishop Elmer M. Bolocon, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) said, "The real reason for the human rights violations is that the government uses the military to quell or stop opposition to the government's projects that adversely affect people's lives and livelihood."

"In Samar (Island in the central part of the Philippines), for example, which is rich in mineral resources, the government has a mining project for which it has the cooperation of foreign mining companies", he said. "The military is sent to secure the place and consequently harass people."

Asked if the allocation of interests involving the political killings in the Philippines is connected to its trade relationships with Japan, he agreed that Japan constitutes a beneficiary as a consumer of those mineral resources exported to Japan.

"The same is true with Hacienda Luicita where the police and the military were used to protect the interests of the landlords to which the family of former President Corazon Aquino belong," he explained further.

"The Pastoral Ecumenical Delegation to the Philippines in its final report [in mid-July] concluded that human rights violations seen in the Philippines are part of the geopolitics and globalization" he said, "Indeed, the war on terror by America is terrorizing the Philippines and the world."

"The human rights situation in the Philippines today is worse than the human rights situations during the martial-rule years of the 70's and the 80's," said Bishop Bolocon, referring to the present Philippine government's rule over labor unions, peasants, journalists, human rights activists and lawyers, indigenous peoples, and pastors, as "a de-facto martial law".

"Philippine churches have no other recourse but to say 'NO' to the empire," said Sharon Rose Joy Ruis-Duremdes, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in



*Ms. Sharon Rose Joy Ruis-Duremdes (right), General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), speaks at the open meeting with the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) at the Japan Christian Center in Tokyo on October 8, as Bishop Elmer M. Bolocon, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), listens.*

the Philippines (NCCP), in her presentation at the meeting on Philippine churches in what she termed as "the shadow of the U.S. Empire".

"God's rejection of power impels us to believe in God's bias for the weak and the powerless," she said. "With such belief, no one can, in conscience, support any treaty, accord, or economic arrangement that will only strengthen the powerful grip of the US, Europe, and Japan on the rest of the world."

"The fact is that Japan is a satellite of the U.S. empire; I feel that Japan is part of the empire," she said. "Many U.S. economic policies are being supported and promoted by Japan."

"But I know that there are many Japanese people and churches who are against the Japanese policy," she added. "That is where I feel we need to support each other."

She pointed out that Filipino migrant workers come to Japan because of the impacts of globalization policies, asking the Japanese churches for solidarity with them. "I think that the churches are in a very good position in terms of resources and pastoral care for that kind of a ministry," she said. (H.Y)

## Statement of Concern on the Unrestrained Killings of Activists in the Philippines

*"and justice will produce lasting peace and security" (Isaiah 32:17)*

The National Christian Council in Japan (NCC-J) strongly condemns the rise of political killings in the Philippines which has been targeting church leaders, trade union leaders, human rights defenders and members of progressive organizations.

NCC-J has been working with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCC-P) for the last 20 years to bring about reconciliation and peace through organizing mutual visitations and regular consultations. We have become increasingly concerned to see that security forces, including police, soldiers, and local civilian militias, are mobilized to make way for industrial and real estate development projects against the interests of the people and the environment. As Japanese citizens, we feel compelled to register this concern with the government of the Philippines and Japan because Japan's ODA have been playing a major role for such development projects.

Our concern has deepened in the last few years as we observe that the Philippine Government appears to proactively sanction extrajudicial killings and brutality by security forces in the name of the 'war against terror', in which victimization of civilians is only regarded as incidental / 'bound to happen' (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita). During the Pastoral Ecumenical Delegation Visit organized by the World Council of Churches and the Christian Conference of Asia in July 2005, our delegates from NCC-J met the victims and their families and heard the heartrending testimonies firsthand. The large-scale human rights violations were observed by the delegation including police and military intimidation, illegal detention, torture, forced recruitment, and forced evacuation.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has gone still further by tagging our longtime partner churches and

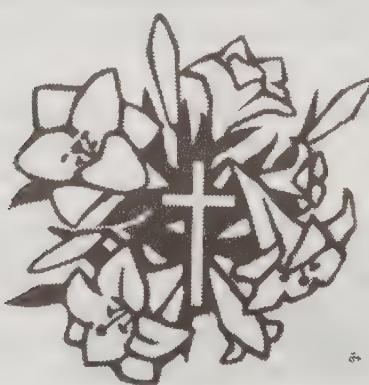
organizations as an 'Enemy of the State' along with other legal organizations. At the same time, we began to hear news of killings of church leaders, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and trade union leaders allegedly by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU). This year alone, the number of victims is almost 100. Among the victims are pastors and church workers who were known to us. They were committed Christians who were accompanying people threatened by mining plans or mass discharges.

The circumstantial evidence is enough to establish that these killings are perpetrated with impunity under the government policy of 'war against terror' in response to the pressed needs of the Philippine government to stage 'security' for industrial peace under huge pressures from the international economical powers including Japan, to put the finances right and provide favorable environment for foreign companies.

Know that security cannot be achieved by military force. It is justice that produces lasting peace and security (Isaiah 32:17).

We call upon the Philippine government for the following:

- To restore justice to the victims of violence by carrying out immediate and impartial investigations into these extrajudicial executions. Make results of these investigations public, and bring those found responsible to justice. Give protection and assistance to the families of victims.
- To take immediate and comprehensive steps to eradicate the culture of impunity from security forces. Disband the CAFGUs.
- To promote agrarian and land rights reform.
- To repeal the 1995 Mining Act.
- To publicly admit the wrong labeling of human rights defenders as "terrorists" and apologize to those listed as "Enemies of State".
- To change policies for resolving the "insurgency". Engage in dialogue to resolve conflict through peaceful means.



National Christian Council in Japan

Reiko Suzuki (Moderator)

Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto (General Secretary)

Rev. Hidetoshi Watanabe (Chair of Philippine Committee)

## Hokkaido Artist: Midori Shibata

### *My life history*

I was born the 1st of April 1933, in Tokyo, Japan.

My parents passed away when I was a young girl, leaving my three brothers, my young sister and myself. We lived from day to day during the second war, after which, GIs filled occupied Japan. Then, around 1950, many Churches arose throughout the country, and a beautiful Christmas card attracted my heart. My father was respected as a pioneer of commercial art in the Taishou era, so perhaps I too had a gift for designing. I designed some Christmas cards while I was in my late teens and gave them to my classmates. They were very happy to receive them. From that time I began to work. In 1953 I graduated from an art course at Bunka-Gakuin College in Tokyo.



Rev. Inagaki Morito baptized me at Hijirigaoka Church in 1964. In 1967 I married Shibata Sakujiro, who was a missionary at the time. Our first appointment was at Ishinomaki-Motomachi Church in Miyagi Prefecture. I remember we held a bazaar to raise money to mend the church building. Some of my cards were on sale there and somebody proposed, "Why don't you mass-produce them and offer them to other Churches for their bazaars?" I then began to mass-produce my cards and received requests for them from other Churches and people. I have also designed many program covers, posters and bulletins for the churches we have served at. I currently belong to the Otaru Boyodai Dendoshō mission, but our house is called "Kyōkai" (church)



by the neighborhood because it is a small home church. In fact, we only have seven members. The Byodai Church will soon celebrate its 18th birthday.

Thanks be to the Lord!

To order her book of graphics, prints or 50 yen post cards with her Christian art work, please contact Midori at:

Otaru Byodo Church  
2-13-18 Boyodai, Otaru -shi,  
Hokkaido 047-015  
Tel. 0134-54-1343  
email ms-shiba@bb.excite.co

*JCAN is grateful for the use of Midori's graphics throughout this issue.*



## At Such A Time as This

In the last few weeks, the Filipino people waited with baited breath to see how the balance would tip as rumors of a coup d'état and military defections filled the air. The doubts surrounding Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's legitimacy as Head of State hurled by the people had remained unabated. Wanting to deflect the people's outcry and to pre-empt change, the traditional politicians churned a Charter Change formula. The voice of resistance soared to an even fevered pitch for more and more people believed that the ruling dispensation had long lost its moral ascendancy to hold the reins of leadership. Personalities and multi-sectoral groups began to gel into an opposition block.

Today, they poured out into the streets to commemorate People Power I twenty years ago. The marches were supposed to lift up one more time the essence of that historic event in February 1986 as a reminder that the people are still most decisive if change is to be substantial. Today, the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo government, fearful that the President would be yanked from the throne by the people's collective wrath, declared a state of national emergency and gave her military free rein to do as they pleased. She revoked all permits to hold public assemblies. In essence, this act showed that in this country, it is unlawful even to remember. She let loose the troops who lost no time in pouncing upon thousands of people who massed up at the EDSA Shrine to recall... to celebrate the indomitable spirit of freedom... to commit themselves to the continuing pursuit of truth, justice, and peace.

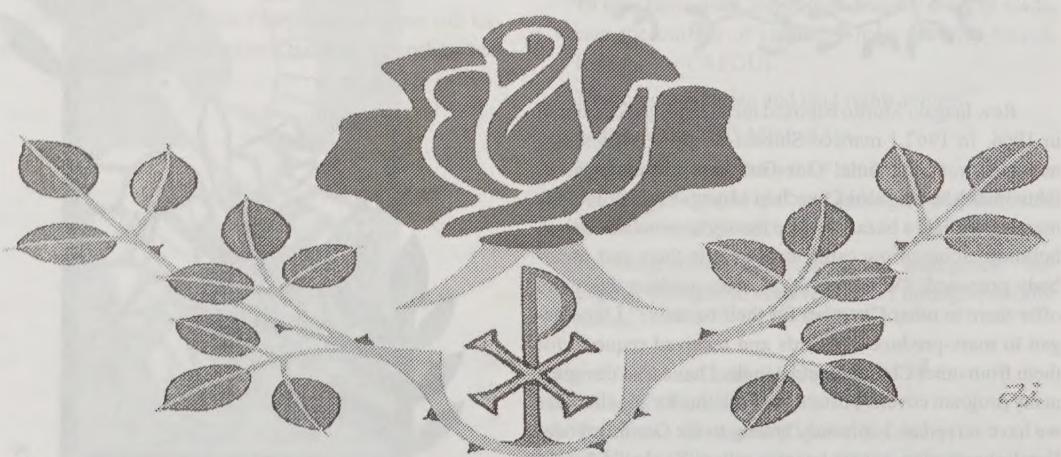
We raise our protestations in the strongest possible terms. There is no justification for a state of emergency. It will not make right the perfidious wrongs nor the immeasurable woes committed by the regime. It will only further fan the people's ire. We enjoin our churches to continue to earnestly seek God's will at such a precarious time like this.



As they do, may they lend their ears and attune their hearts to what our people are saying. And may we find in those cries the church's appropriate response which is to be with those who weep and work for peace.

We plead with our partners here and abroad to speak against this travesty of God's will for freedom and to express their sentiments through a letter addressed to the President of the Republic asking her to lift the state of national emergency immediately and attend with diligence and dispatch to the weightier matters of life: land and liberty... jobs and justice... food and freedom.

MS. SHARON ROSE JOY RUIZ-DUREMDES  
General Secretary  
National Council of Churches in the Philippines  
879 EDSA, West Triangle, Quezon City 1104  
Philippines





## NCC 日本キリスト教協議会

〒102-0061 東京都千代田区麹町5番2-9-13-24 電話 (03)324-233788  
電郵 03-3223-9272 (代表) FAX 03-3204-9478 E-mail: [info@ncc-japan.org](mailto:info@ncc-japan.org)  
<http://www.ncc-japan-global.net>

監修者 鈴木 香子  
秘書長 山本 雄三

## NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN JAPAN

100-0061 JAPAN CHRISTIAN CENTER 24, 3-5-18 Higashiasakicho, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 108-0081 JAPAN  
Telephone: 03-3203-9272 Fax: 03-3204-9478 E-mail: [info@ncc-japan.org](mailto:info@ncc-japan.org)  
<http://www.ncc-japan-global.net>

Ms. SUZUKI, Reiko  
Moderator  
MR. YAMAMOTO, Toshimasa  
General Secretary

Dear President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo;

The National Christian Council in Japan (NCC-J), which consists of 32 mainline Protestant churches and organizations, is gravely concerned about the deterioration of human rights in the Philippines.

We are dismayed to see how you are destroying people's confidence in law, justice, and democracy. Your proclamation 1017 declaring a state of national emergency, which strongly resembles the Proclamation 1081 issued by Ferdinand E. Marcos 35 years ago, was issued without Congressional approval. This is against the constitution as are the violent dispersal and the arrest of rallyists, threats to take over media and oppression on journalists, continued arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial executions, and the re-introduction of foreign armed forces. You have been doing all these actions despite repeated protests from around the world.

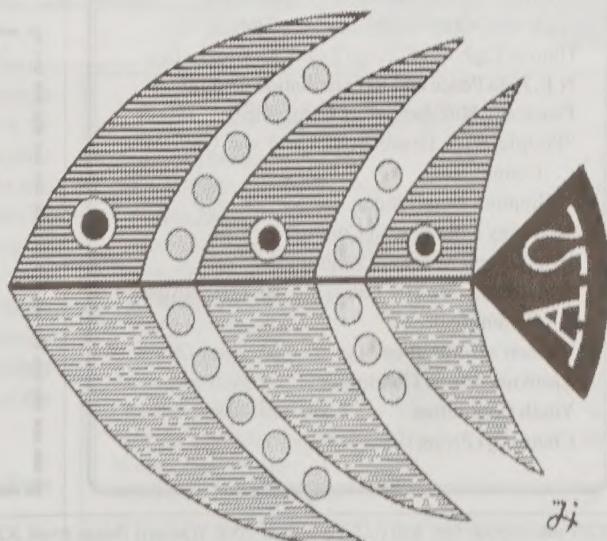
In order to further the growth of the economy, to restore the people's confidence in your government and their faith in the future of the Philippines, justice must be first restored to the assassinated human rights activists, who are the victims of your so-called conspiracy theory. Peace and order cannot be achieved by terror politics. Lift the state of national emergency immediately and show your nation how the Head of State of a democratic country should behave.

In prayer,

Rev. Hidetoshi D. Watanabe  
Chair of NCC-J Philippine Committee

Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto  
General Secretary of NCCJ

*JCAN Editor's note: Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo lifted the state of emergency in her country after one week on March 4. NCCJ as well as NCCP sent letters of protests to Pres. Macapagal Arroyo when the state of emergency was called. Although lifted, the political situation is unlikely to settle down for some time. NCCJ's Philippine Committee continues to work with NCCP in solidarity.*



## NCCJ Calendar Highlights 2005-2006

### August

7-9 Seminar: Human Rights Education for Christian Schools

9-11 NCCJ Children's Peace Conference (Hiroshima)

15 Prayer Meeting for Peace (Chidorigafuchi)

### September

1 Commemorative Early Morning Prayer Meeting Concerning the Massacre of Koreans in Japan During the Kanto Earthquake (1923) (Korean YMCA in Japan)

9-11 CCA Working Group Meeting on People's Security in North East Asia (Korean YMCA in Japan)

23 Fellowship Meeting for NCCJ Individual Supporters (Korean Museum, Tokyo)

28 Interfaith Rally to oppose SDF (Self Defense Force) dispatch to Iraq organized by Interfaith Peace Network

### October

4-7 NCCJ/NCC-Korea URM Consultation (Korea)

8 Meeting with Ms. Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz-Duremedes, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in the Philippines and Bishop Bolocong, United Church of Christ in the Phillipines (UCCP)

### NCCJ Committees

- China Church Relations Committee
- Commission on Faith and Order
- Committee on International Cooperation
- German Church Relations Committee
- Human Rights of Foreign Residents Committee
- N.E. Asia Peace and Reconciliation Committee
- Peace and Nuclear Issues Committee
- "People with Disabilities" and the Church Committee
- Philippines Committee
- Theology and Mission Committee
- Urban Rural Mission Committee
- Wakachiai Bokin (Sharing of Offerings Committee)
- Women's Committee
- Yasukuni Shrine Committee
- Youth Committee
- Chernobyl Project

12 Meeting with Dr. Prawate Khid-arn, General Secretary of CCA (Korea)

20 Interfaith Rally to oppose SDF (Self Defense Force) dispatch to Iraq organized by Interfaith Peace Network

29 Music Concert, "What is happening in the Philippines" by Jesse Santiago (St. Andrew's Church, Tokyo)

### November

1-4 Japan/Korea Women's Solidarity Meeting (Korea)

13-20 NCCJ Week of Disabled Persons

24-26 NCCJ Mission Conference

28 Interfaith Rally to oppose SDF (Self Defense Force) dispatch to Iraq organized by Interfaith Peace Network (in front of Diet bldg., Tokyo)

### December

8 Caroling for Peace (Shibuya area, Tokyo)

### January

23 KCCJ/NCCJ joint talk program, Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung speaker (St. Barnabas Church)

### February

13-20 WCC General Assembly (Porto Alegre, Brazil)

### March

13-14 NCCJ General Assembly (held at Shitaya Kyodan Church, Tokyo)

25 Christian Coalition for Refugees and Migrant Workers Charity Harp Concert (St. Andrew's Church, Tokyo)

29 Christian Peace Network Forum (Japan Christian Center, Tokyo)

### JCAN EDITORIAL COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto  
*Editor*

Sr. Jean Michalec, M.M.  
*Assistant Editor*

Hisashi Yukimoto  
*Contributing Editor*

Ronald Julian  
*Layout Artist*

Volunteers  
Reiko Fujino